THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CWMBRAN

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ending December 31st 1939.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

CWMBRAN.

October, 1940.

TO. The Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cwmbran.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health, and abbreviated this year on their instructions.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	5,850
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population mid-1939 -	
(a) For calculation of birth rates	10,930
(b) For calculation of death rates or the incidence of notifiable diseases	11,070
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to the Rate Books	2,953
Rateable Value	£37,086
Sum represented by penny rate	£134

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The inhabitants of the district are mainly engaged in local industries, but many have had employment recently on construction of factories outside the area.

In addition to the existing works in the district, the building of a new factory has been commenced.

The unemployment figure has been appreciably lowered owing to the local industries improving and more available work outside the district.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total.	Male.	Female.
LIVE BIRTHS - Legitimate	153	73	80
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Birth Rate per 1, 00 of the estimated Resident Population		14.1	
Birth Rate for England and Wales 1939		15.0	

	Total.	Male.	Female.
STILL BIRTHS	8	2	6
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births		36.8	

VITAL STATISTICS (continued)

	Total.	Male.	Female.
DEATHS	127	58	69
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population		11.4	
ditto ditto 1938		12.7	
Death Rate for England and Wales		12.1	

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES -

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
Other Puerperal Causes ...	1	6.1
	1	6.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Eleven Infants died under the age of one year, seven of whom were under one month.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age -

All Infants per 1,000 live births	70.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	71.4
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Deaths from Cancer - (All ages)	18
Measles (All ages)	0
Whooping Cough (All ages)	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	0

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS

The incidence of sickness was fairly normal during the year.

As already mentioned, unemployment has been steadily diminishing in the district of late, but the health advantage so gained may unfortunately be offset by the suspension of further slum clearance and overcrowding abatement due to the war.

Evacuee Children have been billeted wherever possible in houses where they will not cause overcrowding.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

There was no change in these services during the year under review.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(i) Water - The water supply is supplied from your own reservoir at Upper Cwmbran with auxiliary supplies from Newport and Pontypool when required. There are still isolated houses in the district which derive their water from wells. Samples have been taken and subjected to bacteriological examination.

A Public Inquiry was held by H.M.Inspector from the Ministry of Health concerning the problems raised previously about the water supply.

The result was that the Ministry sanctioned your request for a grant for the purpose of repairing the Blaen Bran Reservoir and the installation of coagulating and chlorinating plants.

Tenders were received from several Contractors and work will commence in the New Year.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage - The Sewerage Extensions in the Blackbirds area have been completed and the majority of the houses connected thereto.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The number of inspections made during 1939 was 156.
These consisted of inspections for damp, structural defects, and conditions arising from overcrowding.
The number of informal notices served was 54.

It is now necessary for the utmost care to be taken of existing houses as opportunities for rehousing are scarce, and furthermore the possibility of having to house or billet evacuated families from other areas must be kept in mind.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

There are in your district, 12 factories, 12 bakehouses, and 30 workshops, making a total of 54 registered workshops. Inspection has been periodically made, especially as regards ventilation, light, limewashing and lavatory accommodation.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Infested houses :

(a) Council Houses ... 5.	Disinfested ... 5.
(b) Other Houses ... 8.	Disinfested ... 8.

The method employed for disinfestation is vermicine spray.

Belongings from tenants are disinfested in all cases before removal to Council houses. This work is carried out by the Local Authority.

It was not found necessary to close the Schools during the year on account of infectious diseases.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1939

In August, the final certificate of completion was issued for 42 houses in the Ty Pwca Housing Site, Upper Cwmbran, and all these houses were let to people under the slum clearance and overcrowding provisions.
Under the same provisions, 34 houses at the Penywain Housing Site, Cwmbran, were completed by December out of the 68 houses sanctioned, and 26 were under construction.
The building of the remaining 8, which had not been commenced in September, was indefinitely held up by the Ministry on account of the outbreak of war.
For the same reason the further provision of houses for people from Slum and Overcrowded houses has been postponed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The regular inspection and supervision of food was carried out as usual.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The increase in the number of scarlet fever cases reported

last year was not continued in 1939. It is gratifying to note that no case of diphtheria was notified, and it is hoped that in spite of the difficulties caused by the war in this respect, further immunisation of School Children will be resumed next year.

Notification of Measles and Whooping Cough became obligatory in October, and from then to the end of the year 22 cases of measles and 3 cases of whooping cough were notified. There is no hospital accommodation for such.

A supply of strepticide is kept at the Council Offices and is available, free, to medical practitioners of the district when required for the treatment of puerperal pyrexia. It is supplied by the County Medical Authorities.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1939.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	15	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	17	1	4
Erysipelas	-	-	-

AGE GROUP ANALYSIS

	Under 1 yr.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/60
1. Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	2.	-	8.	3.	2.	-	-	-
2. Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Pneumonia	3.	1.	3.	1.	1.	2.	1.	-	-	3.	2.
4. Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

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TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
15	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
20	0	3	0	0	1	2	0	0
25	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
35	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1	6	1	6	1	6	0	1

All known cases were notified.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES FLEMING.